

CROP-WEATHER REPORT

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For Week Ending: October 26, 2003

ISSUED: WEEKLY: Apr-Oct
MONTHLY: Nov-Mar

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Agricultural Summary

There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending October 26. For most locations in the state last week's weather consisted of above normal temperatures and strong winds, with limited precipitation.

Libby received the greatest amount of precipitation for the week at 0.80 inches. The state high was 88 in Hardin and the state low was 6 in Wisdom. The weather outlook for the week of November 3-9 is for below normal temperatures with above normal precipitation east of the divide and below normal temperatures with near normal precipitation west of the divide. Normal temperatures for this period are lows of 15 to the upper 20s and highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s.

Soil Moisture Condition Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Topsoil Moisture				
Very Short	62	49	23	24
Short	35	42	35	43
Adequate	3	9	41	33
Surplus	0	0	1	0
Subsoil Moisture				
Very Short	67	71	39	35
Short	28	25	36	40
Adequate	5	4	25	25
Surplus	0	0	0	0

Field Crops Report

Winter wheat planted is now at 99 percent and is ahead of the 5-year average. Crop emergence is at 80 percent, ahead the 5-year average of 72 percent. Warm temperatures have allowed the crop to emerge but strong winds are depleting both plant and soil moisture. The outlook for the winter crop is still positive if moisture is received over the next few weeks, without additional moisture several producers fear the wheat will die before the winter sets in.

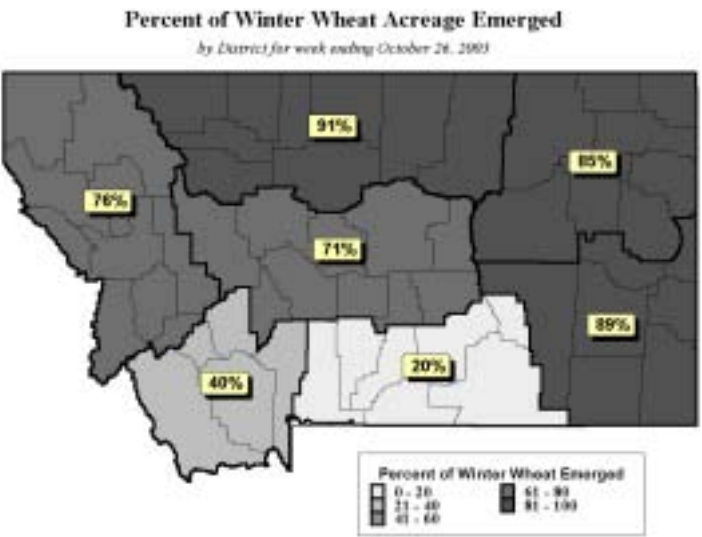
Both potato and sugar beet harvest is coming to a close. Sugar beet harvest has been slowed due to the abnormally high temperatures and the negative effects it has on the crop when it is piled.

Crop Progress Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Potatoes				
Harvested	95	90	98	95
Sugar Beets				
Harvested	94	88	95	92
Winter Wheat				
Seeded	99	98	98	96
Emerged	80	64	80	72

Crop Condition Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Winter Wheat Condition			
Very Poor	6	N/A	2
Poor	19	N/A	6
Fair	56	N/A	30
Good	19	N/A	55
Excellent	0	N/A	7



Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Range and pasture conditions declined again and are significantly below last year's rating and the 5-year averages. Large range fires in Glacier county have destroyed several thousand acres of rangeland and some hay stocks. Its long term effects on the feed outlook for the area is unknown at this time.

Range & Pasture Feed Condition Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Very Poor	45	42	30	21
Poor	34	34	29	27
Fair	17	19	26	35
Good	4	5	14	15
Excellent	0	0	1	2

Livestock Table

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-yr. Avg.
Movement from Summer Ranges				
Cattle	77	74	70	77
Sheep and Lambs	80	77	70	80
Receiving Supplemental Feed				
Cattle	27	27	19	N/A
Sheep and Lambs	22	21	N/A	N/A

THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Compiled and Summarized by:
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

In conjunction with:
MSU Extension Agents

USDA County Service Centers
National Weather Service

Weather Information Table For Week Ending 6:00 p.m. MDT, October 25, 2003 1/

STATION	TEMPERATURE PAST WEEK			PRECIPITATION						
				Past Week	April 1, 2003 to Date			October 1, 2002 to Date		
	High	Low	Avg.		Total 2/	Normal 3/	%	Total 2/	Normal 3/	%
	Degrees				In.	Inches		Normal	Inches	
NORTHWEST										
Drummond	80	15	49	0.00	6.86	8.72	79	12.27	13.08	94
Hamilton	83	21	53	0.00	4.70	8.26	57	11.99	14.02	86
Kalispell	75	20	48	0.14	7.07	10.19	69	11.74	17.79	66
Libby	64	25	46	0.80	M	M	M	M	M	M
Missoula	80	22	51	0.00	7.95	8.76	91	13.26	14.33	93
Polson	78	26	53	0.00	8.22	10.58	78	16.34	16.80	97
Superior	82	21	55	0.00	4.79	9.19	52	13.29	17.28	77
Thompson Falls	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
West Glacier	67	24	48	0.73	M	M	M	M	M	M
NORTHCENTRAL										
Chester	79	17	53	0.00	6.32	8.59	74	7.78	10.88	72
Choteau	79	18	53	0.01	7.92	8.97	88	10.15	10.64	95
Conrad	76	20	54	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cut Bank	75	16	53	0.00	4.33	10.45	41	5.03	12.80	39
Ft. Benton	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Gold Butte	79	14	52	0.00	9.26	11.17	83	11.75	14.15	83
Harlem	83	19	52	0.00	7.97	9.51	84	10.42	11.86	88
Havre	83	18	54	0.00	8.55	8.85	97	9.88	11.84	83
Shelby	78	20	53	0.00	7.17	9.42	76	8.92	11.86	75
Turner	80	22	53	0.00	7.18	9.35	77	8.86	11.51	77
Valier	75	26	54	0.00	8.40	10.39	81	9.38	12.58	75
NORTHEAST										
Culbertson	83	30	57	0.00	11.90	11.56	103	16.05	14.08	114
Glasgow	85	33	55	0.00	7.62	9.25	82	8.91	11.66	76
Glendive	85	33	60	0.00	7.34	11.23	65	11.34	14.24	80
Jordan	85	32	54	0.00	9.96	10.30	97	11.08	13.44	82
Plentywood	M	M	M	M	8.05	10.97	73	10.95	13.59	81
Scobey	86	29	52	0.00	7.97	10.74	74	9.85	12.87	77
Sidney	84	30	60	0.04	9.03	11.66	77	13.24	14.93	89
Wolf Point	86	31	54	0.00	7.95	9.90	80	9.92	12.40	80
CENTRAL										
Cascade	83	12	50	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Flatwillow	88	20	56	0.00	7.48	10.56	71	11.86	13.85	86
Great Falls	79	23	56	0.00	8.39	11.25	75	10.64	15.46	69
Harlowton	80	28	54	0.00	6.62	11.35	58	8.57	14.55	59
Helena	82	24	55	0.00	7.00	8.72	80	9.15	11.72	78
Lewistown	81	22	55	0.00	9.64	13.45	72	13.66	18.49	74
Melstone	87	27	60	0.00	M	M	M	M	M	M
Roundup	86	25	58	0.00	7.03	10.82	65	10.25	13.88	74
Stanford	80	24	56	0.00	10.16	13.48	75	14.20	17.73	80
White Sulphur Spr	79	19	52	0.00	7.58	10.43	73	10.09	13.83	73
SOUTHWEST										
Anaconda	81	18	50	0.00	9.07	9.67	94	15.40	13.90	111
Belgrade	81	16	50	0.00	8.43	10.96	77	12.25	15.40	80
Bozeman MSU	82	20	56	0.00	10.00	14.15	71	16.18	20.28	80
Butte	79	12	47	0.00	7.16	9.67	74	9.56	13.27	72
Dillon	80	16	52	0.00	5.90	9.47	62	8.39	12.18	69
Ennis	83	17	54	0.00	8.44	10.51	80	11.49	14.20	81
Wisdom	74	6	42	0.00	6.16	8.45	73	11.74	12.36	95
SOUTHCENTRAL										
Billings	85	31	59	0.00	6.02	10.60	57	9.47	15.55	61
Gardiner	81	22	56	0.00	5.37	7.26	74	7.43	10.29	72
Hardin	88	28	61	0.00	7.02	9.12	77	10.66	12.86	83
Livingston	82	20	57	0.00	8.77	12.23	72	13.58	16.47	82
Rapelje	84	29	59	0.00	7.14	11.64	61	11.21	16.08	70
Red Lodge	76	30	56	0.00	6.65	16.23	41	11.97	25.03	48
SOUTHEAST										
Baker	83	29	53	0.00	10.33	11.68	88	14.08	15.17	93
Broadus	83	33	57	0.00	8.15	10.49	78	12.37	14.35	86
Ekalaka	77	27	55	0.35	12.23	13.67	89	17.09	18.22	94
Miles City	84	34	57	0.00	7.40	10.88	68	9.80	14.18	69

1/ Data from National Weather Service. 2/ May be revised weekly. 3/ For period 1971-2000. M-More than 25% of reporting days are missing.

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